

MINUTES
POCD STEERING COMMITTEE
JUNE 20, 2013 – 6:00 P.M.
MEETING #8
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

GROTON PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT (POCD) AND
MUNICIPAL COASTAL PROGRAM (MCP) UPDATES

I. ROLL CALL

Regular members present: Marquardt, Pritchard, Scott, Sherrard, Smith, Sutherland, Sutphen
Absent: Cerf, Johnson, Kane, Rafferty, Williams
Staff present: Murphy, Davis, Silsby

Chairman Sherrard called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of April 18, 2013

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 18, 2013 as amended.

Motion made by Sutphen, seconded by Scott, so voted unanimously as amended.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

IV. ITEM OF BUSINESS

A consensus was made to present the MCP presentation prior to the May 15, 2013 debrief of Special Community Meeting.

1. Municipal Coastal Program (MCP)

Staff referred to his memo to the Steering Committee dated 6/20/13 regarding the 1982 MCP and 1990 POCD excerpts.

Philip Michalowski and David Murphy of Milone & MacBroom gave a detailed presentation on the MCP including a review of the applicable statutory requirements, the Town's current MCP, objectives achieved since adoption of the initial MCP, and suggested areas of focus for both the MCP update process as well as the document itself.

In particular, Mr. Michalowski referred to the 1982 POCD and explained that changes in sea level rise, flooding, and storm intensity are just a few of the reasons why this document needs to be updated.

2. May 15, 2013 Debrief of Special Community Meeting

Staff gave a recap of the May 15th special community meeting, noting that information and public comments relative to the meeting are available via the Town's website. He stated that public input will be used for draft updates. The next community public meeting may be held at the beginning of October. Keeping the public well informed is a key component in this process. Discussion followed about getting feedback from the public going forward.

3. Community Facilities

Mr. Michalowski gave a power point presentation providing an overview and update of community facility objectives identified in the 2002 POCD, including those that are on-going versus completed projects versus remaining initiatives. It was felt that the 2012 update should offer a more limited set of discrete objectives that are primarily land use related and generally within the Plan's timeframe. The difference between a POCD and the capital facility plan was also discussed.

The purpose, scope and authority of the POCD's community facility element was discussed in relationship to the separate purpose, scope and authority of the Town's DEEP approved sewer service facility plan. The group also discussed bridges, public water and other public facilities.

It was agreed that the Town has accomplished many of its objectives over the course of the last ten years.

4. Draft Survey

A draft survey was distributed and discussed. It was noted that the budget did not provide for a scientific survey and that the document would need to be widely available for at least 7-8 weeks in order to gather as much information as possible from as many sources as possible. Pros and cons were given about the length of the survey, its contents, and how best to circulate it to residents for input. Various suggestions were made by the committee.

Mr. Michalowski will work with Staff to make necessary revisions and identify a broad range of distribution options.

5. July Meeting Topics

Due to summer vacations, a consensus was made to cancel the July POCD meeting.

The next regular meeting will take place in August, at which time the committee will discuss Economic Development, the MCP, Recreation and Open Space and Sustainability.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. made by Sutphen, seconded by Pritchard, so voted unanimously.

Jeff Pritchard, Secretary
Steering Committee

Prepared by Robin Silsby
Office Assistant II